



The Physician's BOOKSHELF

VASCULAR ROENTGENOLOGY—Arteriography, Phlebography, Lymphography—Robert A. Schobinger, M.D., F.A.C.A., F.I.C.A., S.G.P., Diplomate, American Board of Surgery; Diplomate F.M.H. in Surgery, Switzerland; and Francis F. Ruzicka, Jr., M.D., F.A.C.R., Director, Department of Radiology, The St. Vincent's Hospital and Medical Center, New York; Clinical Professor of Radiology, New York University School of Medicine, New York. The Macmillan Company, New York, 1964. 747 pages, \$35.00.

This handsome monograph is divided into five parts: general considerations, angiocardiology, arteriography, phlebography and lymphography.

The section on general considerations contains an interesting brief history of angiography, useful information on the various media available and the many techniques currently applicable.

The remaining sections deal in thorough fashion with methods of examination of the heart, and most of the vascular and lymphatic structures of the body. The microsections in the lymphography portion are particularly useful.

Considering the fact that the work was prepared by some 75 authors from 13 countries, the format is remarkably uniform. There is an adequate index, and the quality of the illustrations is distinctly above average.

L. H. GARLAND, M.D.

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CLINICAL NEUROLOGY—Frank A. Elliott, M.D., F.R.C.P., Chief of Neurology, The Pennsylvania Hospital; Professor of Clinical Neurology, University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine. W. B. Saunders Company, Philadelphia and London, 1964. 688 pages, \$12.50.

There exists at the present time more than two excellent textbooks of neurology designed for the student and the resident. Any new textbook is bound to be compared with these and one would like to see a new textbook an improvement of the old ones.

This textbook is one of 688 pages, which is far from adequate to allow anything approaching a comprehensive textbook of clinical neurology and this imposes on the author great demands in terms of selection. He devoted the first 131 pages chiefly to anatomic diagnosis, and this is a mixture of correlative anatomy, methods of examination, and some clinicopathological correlations. While these 131 pages are full of facts and many excellent points, the mixture on the whole is rather irregular and I doubt a student will find it interesting reading. I believe there is a great need in clinical neurology for a well-written section such as this on the diagnostic value of symptoms and signs, but the section probably contains far too much ordinary anatomy, better read in standard anatomy texts.

The rest of the textbook is of the usual format in terms of presentation and contents. It has a very useful bibliography. Treatment and management are, on the whole, inadequately dealt with, and I would refer in particular to cerebrovascular disease, myasthenia gravis or polymyositis. From the point of view of management of patients with neurological diseases and specific therapy, this textbook will not be useful.

Some aspects of diagnosis, such as muscle biopsy, carotid

bruits and ophthalmodynamometry are not discussed, although muscle biopsy is on one occasion mentioned in passing, but does not appear in the index.

The clinical diagnosis of cerebrovascular disease, a condition of such high incidence in any type of medical practice, could gain by extension even without increasing the textbook size by deleting detailed anatomic descriptions or cutting down uncommon disorders, such as Creutzfeldt-Jakob's disease, which is discussed in three quarters of a page.

It is very easy to find apparent faults in a first edition, however, this textbook does contain a large mass of information which has been carefully put together. It will have a real use for students and residents in regard to clinical diagnosis, but not much from the point of view of therapy and management. It is unlikely, however, that in its present form and style it will compete successfully with the well-established better textbooks of neurology.

DONALD MACRAE, M.D.

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HANDBOOK OF OBSTETRICS & GYNECOLOGY—Ralph C. Benson, M.D., Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology, and Chairman of the Department, University of Oregon Medical School, Portland. Lange Medical Publications, Los Altos, 1964. 656 pages, \$5.00.

Professor Benson's Handbook of Obstetrics and Gynecology is a very complete companion volume (656 fact-filled pages) which the Obstetrical Resident or the busy practitioner can keep with him at all times. It is a bit bulky but, just as the other handbooks published by Lange, it will fit in his coat pocket. Benson's Handbook is very similar to Milton Chatton's very successful Handbook of Medical Treatment in that it is complete, practical and well-organized. The usual tables of metric equivalents, normal levels for blood chemistry, clearance tests and excretion values on the fly pages and inside covers are well chosen and convenient. There is scarcely a square inch of blank paper.

Admittedly, Dr. Benson has had to choose his material carefully and it is understandingly disappointing that specific details of treatment are sometimes missing. For example, the author is a recognized authority on the management of hyperthyroidism in pregnancy, but his outline of treatment in this instance is not as specific as the man faced with writing the orders for antithyroid medication would like. On the other hand, the true emergencies such as cardiac arrest or the management of postpartum hemorrhage are dealt with in concise and specific detail and the Handbook, near at hand, could well be lifesaving.

Approximately one-third of the book is devoted to gynecology, and here Professor Benson demonstrates his sound, conservative, yet practical approach to gynecologic problems. There are a few points of current practical interest which might deserve more attention, such as the intrauterine device for contraception which are merely mentioned in passing; however, his organization and approach to management of menstrual disorders, gynecologic backache, and problems of the climacteric are sound and concise.

J. G. MOORE, M.D.